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CONTENTS

India-Pakistan: Tension is rising in Kashmir. (Page 2)

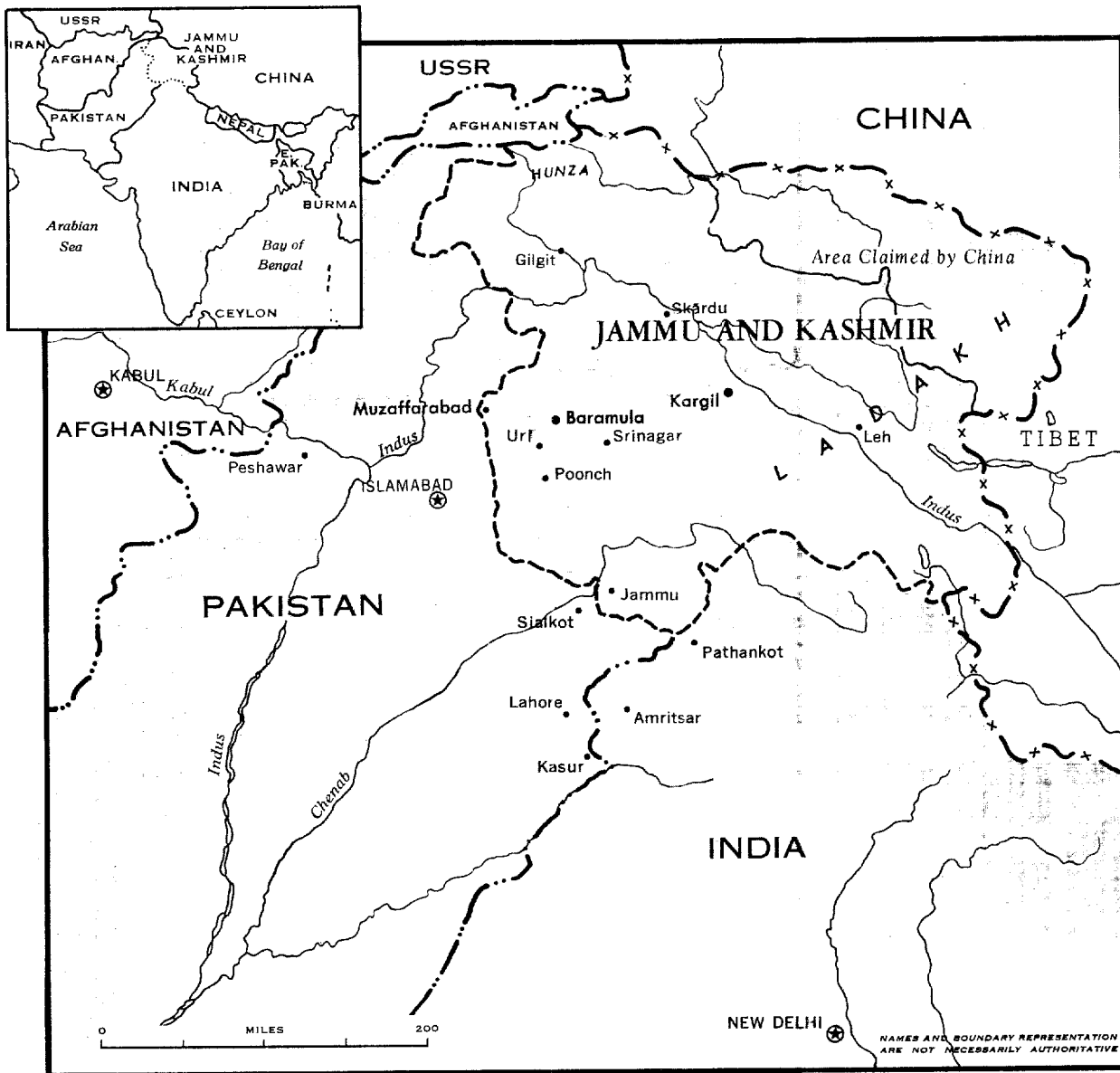
Japan: Foreign Ministry floats proposals on Okinawa.
(Page 4)

25X1

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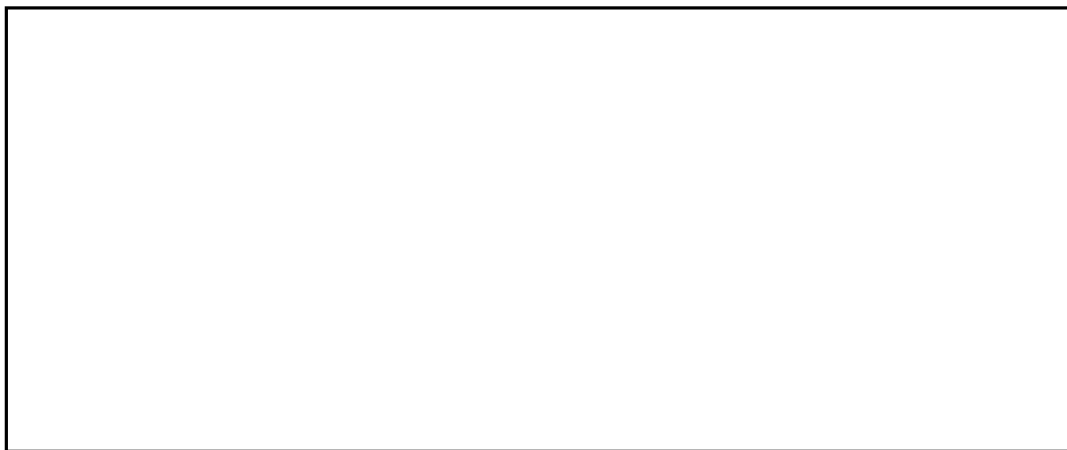
Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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India-Pakistan: An Indo-Pakistani military clash in a remote but strategic area along the Kashmir cease-fire line is possible.



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The Indians reportedly have restricted UN observer movement in the Kargil area and are moving artillery and medical units to forward positions. They may also be strengthening their positions around Baramula--the main Pakistani access to the coveted Kashmir valley. India probably does not intend to escalate the present dispute, however, to the point of a wider conflict with Pakistan in Kashmir. (Map)

25X1

16 Aug 67

2

25X1

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Japan: Foreign Ministry officials have leaked proposals on Okinawa in an effort to develop public support for moving forward on the issue.

The proposals, published in a leading newspaper on 12 August, call for the return to Japan of administrative rights in Okinawa in exchange for a guarantee to the US of free use of island bases, except for the storage of nuclear weapons. The Foreign Ministry planners are said to believe such an arrangement could be carried out under existing agreements, including the US-Japan Security Treaty.

Prior to the appearance of the press story, Prime Minister Sato had seemed less willing than the Foreign Ministry to press ahead on this issue. He has said that his mind is made up on the Okinawa issue and that he needs no further help from his Foreign Ministry.

The US Embassy in Tokyo, however, believes that the ministry has made a shrewd guess of present possibilities on the Okinawa issue and has come up with a package acceptable to the US and politically feasible in Japan.

25X1

16 Aug 67

4

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